



## South Gippsland Shire Council Endorses Feasibility Study for Venus Bay Saltmarsh Rehabilitation

At Wednesday's Council Meeting, South Gippsland Shire Council unanimously endorsed the Venus Bay Saltmarsh Rehabilitation Feasibility Study.

The Study investigates the feasibility of transitioning 324 hectares of low-lying land to a saltmarsh and mangrove, to improve coastal resilience. The study looks at a saltmarsh as a potential nature-based solution for coastal hazard asset protection.

The Venus Bay Saltmarsh Project is a community initiative that has been strongly supported at a local level for many years, particularly from the Common Ground community group. Council also supported the project listing it as an advocacy priority in 2023.

In July 2023 Council was successful in securing \$80,000 in funding from the Department Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) which allowed the Study to be undertaken.

South Gippsland Shire Council is grateful to the Victorian Government for funding this study, which is a direct response to community lead calls for consideration of possible solutions.

Council will now send a letter to the Minister for Environment and DEECA, thanking the Minister for the opportunity to undertake the work and sharing the outcomes of the Study.

Noting that the site in question is currently privately owned, the completion of this Study supports future consideration and advocacy for a future project. Additional investigations are required, including groundwater assessments, geotechnical assessments, and detailed design before any action would be possible.

South Gippsland Shire Council has not committed future funding to the purchase of the land or to undertake a project on the land.

### **Quote attributable to South Gippsland Shire Mayor, Nathan Hersey:**

*"Council is grateful for the funding received from the Victorian Government, to undertake this study. It's a positive step in supporting our local coastal communities to address concerns and consider options*

*for the future of our coastal areas.*

*“The endorsement of the Feasibility Study is an important step by Council in supporting our local community who have called for resilience options to be considered in our coastal areas, including a potential future Saltmarsh project.*

*“Our community can use this report to continue discussions with the Victorian Government around coastal resilience solutions.”*

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